

19 October 2018

Michael St Clair
Planner
Cardno
Ground Floor, 16 Burelli Street,
Wollongong, New South Wales 2500

Dear Michael

Modification to concept plan approval – Tallawarra Lands, Yallah, New South Wales
Our Ref: Matter 24090

This letter addresses the comments received by Wollongong City Council on 31 July 2018 in relation to the rezoning of the Tallawarra Lands precinct (MP 09_0131 MOD 1) (the study area). Under point 11, Wollongong City Council have raised the following query in relation to the project:

“The Heritage Impact Assessment Report prepared by Biosis appears to indicate a downgrading of the potential archaeological significance of a range of identified Archaeological sites detailed in the earlier reporting. Evidence gathered by Council about this estate appears to indicate a significant history of transactions and history that is not reflected in the reporting and which may call into questions some of the assumptions and conclusions in the report. Council considers that the Heritage Impact Assessment Report prepared by Biosis should be amended to reflect the substantial additional historical records available to ensure that the conclusions made about the potential archaeological sites are properly considered and that the assumptions made in the absence of this evidence are correct.”

As part of the preparation of the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report for this project Biosis undertake a substantial amount of supplementary research led to a reconsideration of the archaeological potential of the study area. The supplementary historical research included a review of title documents, parish maps, crown plans, historical aerial photography and historical subdivision plans held by the Mitchell Library and Illawarra Historical Society.

Biosis has considered the information supplied by Wollongong City Council and determined the following:

- The estate known as ‘Athanlin’ or ‘Yallah’ was a large property in excess of 3000 acres, of which the study area comprises a small component. The history of this property is considered as part of Section 3.5 of the report (Biosis 2017). Biosis acknowledges the historical context does not contain a detailed chain of title for the Central Precinct. This is due to the history of ownership for the study area being convoluted with limited information relating to precise transactions and the spatial relationship of the various owners and tenants that comprised the estate.
- Biosis undertook a review of crown plans in the vicinity of the Central Precinct, this includes a “*Plan of a road at Yallah. From the West boundary of Patrick Osbourne’s property to the Dapto Road through the lands of Andrew Thompson*” surveyed in 1861 does not show any evidence of cottages or homesteads within the Central Precinct, it however does indicate that there is a lane leading to

numerous small farms located within Patrick Osbourne's property. A larger version of this map is appended to this letter.

- The 1904 "*Part of the Famous Lakelands Estate fronting the Main South Coast Road and extending to Lake Illawarra*" subdivision plan (Figure 9 in Biosis 2017) indicates that there are no cottages within the study area, however there are cottages immediately to the north and east. In particular, the farm to the east corresponds with the "land leading to numerous small farms" identified on the 1860 plan.
- Based upon the additional research, there is no evidence to suggest TH2 and TH3 date to the 19th century occupation of the study area. These structures are not identified on the 1904 or 1919 subdivision plans of the Lakelands estate. The earliest evidence of these structures is on the 1949 aerial of the study area (Figure 10, Biosis 2017).
- During the field inspection the entire study area was traversed. Limited physical evidence was identified outside of the known building locations (TH2, TH3) within the Central Precinct. Due to the steep topography within the study area and structures would have needed substantial landscaping works to create a level building envelope. No evidence for land preparation activities was identified outside of TH2 and TH3.

Biosis concurs with Wollongong City Council that archaeological remains associated with the early to mid 19th century occupation of the early land grants associated with the study area would have substantial potential to answer research questions relating to the early occupation of the region. However, Biosis believes that there is limited evidence for any dwellings or farms associated with this activity within the study area. The research completed by Biosis indicates that the farms located to the north and east of the Central Precinct however may yield this information. Evidence of mid to late 20th century farming practices is unlikely to contribute to the understanding of the region and therefore Biosis has concluded that TH2 and TH3 have limited archaeological potential.

As the study area does not contain any areas of identified potential, the management of any archaeological remains is ideally suited to the implementation of an unexpected finds protocol, as per Recommendation 2 within the Biosis 2017 report.

Please contact me on 0407 808 527 if you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely



Alexander Beben
Principal Archaeologist – NSW

References

Biosis 2017. *Tallawarra Lands Northern and Central Precincts Statement of Heritage Impact. Report for Cardno on behalf of Bridgehill*. Authors: R. Morris & A. Beben, Biosis Pty Ltd, Sydney. Project no. 24090

